

From: [Gene Kuechmann](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: IOM recommendations
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I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in asking you to adopt the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine regarding coverage of preventive care under the new health care law, and to reject any exemptions for "religious employers." These preventive services could provide large numbers of women better access to necessary health care.

AAUW believes that "religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services. However there are those, driven by an ideological bias against contraception in general, who are pushing the government to expand these exemptions. Some groups even want the exemption to apply to religiously-run health providers; hospitals and clinics with religious affiliations would be exempt from the coverage requirement, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies. If granted, this larger exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work.

I urge you to ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations and rejecting the proposed religious-refusal exemption provisions.

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